Parks and Recreation - 1931

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
AGE-HERALD

JUN 14 193

A Playground For Negro Children

On the Southside last week a large playground for Negro children was opened, with ceremonies that made it quite an event for the colored people of the community. There was a large mass meeting, with addresses by city officials and leaders in social, religious and educational work among both races, followed by a parade and an exhibition of games and drills. These ceremonies were especially interesting in that they afforded evidence of the enthusiasm and the genuine appreciation on the part of the Negro community of Birmingham for the playground.

The playground was made possible by the work and cooperation of interested white and colored people, with the generous assistance of city officials. At the outset, permission was obtained from the owners of vacant lots to use the property for the purpose, and Negro children were set to work clearing off several acres and removing rubbish. The city helped out by providing equipment and trucks, and has taken over the supervision of it.

It is especially noteworthy that the Negro children themselves who will benefit from the playground keenest of all for the enterprise. worked willingly and hard to help make a playground for themselves. That they, and the entire Negro community, will benefit materially from it goes without saying. It will help to keep them off the streets, and out of the danger of traffic accidents. It will help to keep them out of mischief, such as all children, when allowed to run loose, will get into sometimes. Above all, it will give them a place and facilities for recreation and supervised play that will go far toward making them grow up as good citizens.

The opening of the playground may be regarded as significant of the growing sense of civic and community responsibility on the part of Birmingham's Negro population. The colored people are being taught by their leaders, and are coming to realize for themselves, the importance of community cooperation and welfare work for the general good.

Colorado

Parks and Recreation - 1931.

CITIZENS SUSPECT SEGREGATION MOVE IN RECREATION CENTER

Chicago Defender

DENVER, Colo., Nov. 13.—The grim specter of segregation hovered a little lower over Denver and Colorado last week when two daily newspapers carried articles with the bland announcement that a "Negro recreational center" had been proposed and that a swimming pool and tennis courts were about to be provided, with the work to be started "as soon as possible" in preparation for the coming summer.

No sooner had the morning paper reached the homes of prominent people in the political and social life of the city than telephones began to ring among the various individuals and groups, and a conference was planned to lay before the city planning commission, Mayor George Begole, Walter B. Lowry, manager of improvements and parks, and City Engineer A. K. Vickery, the unanimous objection of citizens to such a procedure. Effective follow-up measures have been planned and will be met to defeat this effort to carry out the policy of a segregated recreational center. At the present time, while certain facilities are taboo, all elements of the city's population use the parks and playgrounds with which the city is rather plentifully supplied.

The school situation in Denver has also been the cause of considerable dissatisfaction on the part of the Race. While no separation has been attempted except in the matter of easy transfers of pupils of the white race from schools largely attended by our Race because of location, still some measure of mixing is the rule.

The legal safeguards against discriminations and segregation in the state of Colorado are among the strongest in the entire country, and will be invoked in this case if the citizens' protest is ignored.

More than 50 years ago congress, in giving the territory the right to form a state, passed an act embodying among other things the following provisions: "Provided, That the Constitution be republican in form, and make no distinction in civil or political rights on account of color or race."

Parks and Recreation - 1931

Florida

Mount Dora, Fla., Topic
Thursday, October 29, 1931

COLORED SCHOOL TO HAVE PLAY GROUNDS

The Parent-Teachers Association along with other organizations among colored people are establishing plans to have a play ground for the colored people of Mount Dora.

The leaders of the above named organizations are cognizant of the fact that much of a persons efficiency is contingent upon the manner in which their spare time is utilized. Any man or woman who spends the time that he is not working, in any type of entertainment that is unsuited to society's standard of morality, will eventually become a social misfit to the body politic.

East Town is a part of the beautiful Mount Dora. It will bear its portion of the burden in making Mount Dora, in its entirety the beauty spot of Florida. There is a very thoughtful saying that, "Beauty is as beauty does." If this saying contains any measure of truth then we can expect beauty in the lives of those who have been taught to conduct themselves becomingly under all conditions.

It is very necessary that there be a conservation of energy if the colored people are to fit well in the social program that is now being readjusted.

Play is a part of every man's life. The man who gets the proper amount of recreation will be an efficient worker.

It is the purpose that the school children have the play grounds until 5 o'clock and then the play grounds will be open to the public.

It is hoped that the program will be consummated by January 1st, 1932.

We thank our friends for their cooperation and advice.

Any one having a water hose for which they have no use would be doing an act that would be greatly appreciated if it is given to the colored school.

Henry E. Dent, Principal.

Parks and Recreation - 1931

Georgia

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer-Sun
Sunday, [illegible]

Negro Playgrounds Festival Is Planned

Patrons of the negro playgrounds of the city will have their annual May festival on the Phyllis Wheatley grounds in the southern section of the city on next Friday, May 29, at 4 p. m., it is announced. A king and queen will be crowned and a pageant entitled "America in Song and Story," will be presented by the children. Refreshments will be served on the grounds. The public is invited to attend.

Brunswick, Ga., Pilot
Friday, August 7, 1931

Public Park Being Built For Negroes

The county commissioners have begun work on the construction of a public amusement and recreation park for the exclusive use of the colored citizens of the county. The park will be located on county owned property lying between Palmetto Cemetery and Selden Institute, extending from the highway back to the Altamaha Canal.

The tract is being cleared and an artesian well will be bored to furnish water for a concrete swimming pool on the high ground and a small bay in the eastern edge of the property will be cleared out and enlarged to make a salt water swimming pool.

In addition to these improvements, adjoining land is being leased from Selden Institute on which a baseball diamond and a foot ball field will be constructed, however no grandstands or other buildings will be built at the present time.

It is the intention of the county commissioners to complete the work of building and equipping the park and then turn it over to a committee of colored citizens to operate.

It will be remembered that when bonds were being issued for the development of roads to the islands and other public improvement programs being carried out, the colored citizens of the county were definitely promised a place where they could recreate themselves. For the past several years many attempts have bee nmade by the county to carry out these pledges but in each instance some insurmountable difficulties presented themselves and nothing was done. It is not thought that any objections will be placed in the way of the present plan.

Parks and Recreation - 1931

Illinois

NEW YORK TIMES

AUG 9 1931

LARGE CHICAGO PARK HAS CHANGED HANDS

Once Playground of Fashion, Negroes Now Use Washington Park Almost Exclusively.

Special Correspondence, THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHICAGO, Aug. 6.—Washington Park, where so-called Negro Communists have been holding open-air meetings, is one of the biggest and most dreadful parks in Chicago, and a most interesting sociological study. Originally it was the playground of wealth and fashion. Today it is a rare thing to see a white face within its borders. It has become the breathing space for the congested black belt.

On a recent Saturday afternoon an observer witnessed many Negro family groups eating al fresco luńches beneath the trees, scores of pickaninnies splashing in an outdoor bathing pool, Negro workmen debating economic problems in orderly assembly, Negro ball teams occupying the diamonds of the expansive athletic field and a Negro cricket club from Detroit playing a gentlemanly game with an all-Chicago white eleven.

There were five white spectators and several score of the Negro race. Beyond the trees at the south end of the park rise the towers of the University of Chicago. Along the splendid drives which wind about and through the parks speeds a ceaseless parade of motor cars, in many of which the more prosperous members of the Negro community may be seen enjoying a domain which they have made almost exclusively their own.

Parks and Recreation -1931

RECREATIONAL CENTER FOR NEGROES GOES UP

NEW IBERIA, La. —(CNS) The laying of the corner stone of the girls' hall, first unit of the Kamp Knighten recreational center being provided for colored youth without regard to denominational affiliation, was one of the important features in connection with the Louisiana Congregational conference held here last Monday. 4-24-31

The exercises were held at the center, three miles from New Iberia, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. E. H. Phillips acted as master of ceremonies. Speakers were Rev. N. A. Holmes, Rev. W. S. Thomas, Rev. R. V. Sims, Rev. H. L. Lang, and Mrs. L. B. Dunn.

ITEM
NEW ORLEANS, LA.

JUN 13 1931

Bathing Beaches

NEW ORLEANS colored people, and all citizens of goodwill, will be glad to read a letter from President Shushan, of the Orleans Levee Board, which appears elsewhere on this page. The negroes of the City, loyally doing their part of its work and contributing their share of its taxes, are entitled to suitable and safe recreational facilities somewhere in the great scheme of public improvements which the Levee Board is carrying out at very heavy public expense on the Lakeshore. This can undoubtedly be arranged satisfactorily to them without giving ground for complaint by others. We are informed that many white citizens have felt interested enough to urge the Levee Board and officials to give this deserved recognition to the good negro citizenship of New Orleans.

PRESIDENT SHUSHAN'S letter is called forth by some suggestions which recently appeared in The Item-Tribune. Our white citizens themselves have never yet had the magnificent bathing and recreational possibilities of their miles and miles of Lake front made available to them. It is highly gratifying to have it definitely understood, as Mr. Shushan's assurance makes it, that all needs of this sort are to be fully met by the plans the Levee Board is now framing.

Beach improvements, whether for bathing or for other purposes, can't be undertaken until the construction of the seawall now under way is completed. We understand that this big job will be finished about October. The other improvements planned will be put under way immediately afterward.

WE GATHER from a couple of paragraphs in Mr. Shushan's letter that someone has blamed the Levee Board for the unhappy drowning of five negro bathers on the Northshore a week ago—perhaps for lack of local facilities. We hope that he and his associates have not construed anything appearing in The Item-Tribune on this subject as implying any unfavorable criticism of the Board at any angle whatever. No criticism of this sort was stated of course, nor even implied. Nor was any remote suggestion of that nature present in our minds.

New Orleans has gone along for a couple of centuries without realizing the benefits of its magnificient frontage on the Lake. That is no more the fault of this levee board, or of anybody else in particular, than of all of the other millions who have lived and died in New Orleans during the past century.

It wasn't until twelve or fifteen years ago that public-spirited citizens seriously addressed themselves to the business of improving the Lakefront. It is a great pleasure to have been among the pioneers in that movement and to have promoted it, in every practicable way. The present Levee Board is happy to have been able to seize the opportunity to finance it and to carry it to completion.

TIMES-PICAYUNE
NEW ORLEANS, LA

JUN 11 1931

A BEACH FOR THE NEGROES

THE tragedy which extinguished the lives of five of our colored people bathing on Sunday on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, impresses again the need of working out a safe and accessible bathing beach for the Negroes of this city somewhere out on the lakefront.

Over 125,000 Negroes are included in the population of New Orleans. When our surrounding section is taken into consideration, there are at least 150,000 in the metropolitan area who have today no safe and accessible bathing beach. Of course there is no assurance that the drowning of these unfortunates would have been avoided if they had had a bathing beach. But that they ought in fairness to have such facilities goes without question.

The great majority of the people who could use any beach are well behaved. When such a beach is established it should be supplied with precautions for the safety of those who use it, as well as properly policed, in order that the comfort and safety of law-abiding elements shall not be interfered with.

Substantial progress has been made in the promotion of a hospital for the colored people of New Orleans and the development of higher educational facilities for them. The City and its citizens should cooperate in getting them parks, recreational playgrounds and a good beach.

This is only fair to a valuable element of the community which, among other things contribute their proportion to the tax revenue of the city.

NEW ORLEANS, LA.
TIMES-PICAYUNE

OCT 22 1931

Bathing Beach for Negroes

FOR YEARS the negro citizens of New Orleans have been asking for the allotment of a bathing beach for the use of the race somewhere on the Pontchartrain lakefront. The justice of their request stands almost unanimously conceded—in principle. Sites for such a beach were tentatively indicated, if we are not mistaken, on the earliest maps of the lakefront development project. Both the city authorities and the levee board have been for a long time in tacit agreement upon the necessity of providing bathing beach facilities for the many thousands of New Orleans negroes.

But specific and official adoption of a site for this admittedly necessary facility has been postponed from year to year. The postponement has been due in part to the fact that the beaches could not be developed until after completion of the sea walls, so that there appeared no urgent practical need of early decision—and in other part to the objections and protests that poured in against selection of any lakefront sector definitely suggested. The filing of another of these protests this week calls the matter again to the attention of the levee board and the community. It brought official assurance from the board that the "actual location" for the negro bathing beach has not been decided upon.

It strikes us that in fairness to all concerned and for the general good of the community, the question of the site for the negro bathing beach should now be threshed out and settled finally and officially. Uncertainty about the location benefits no one and works direct injury by its tendency to unsettle values and retard settlement and development of the lakefront area. Once the negro bathing beach location is definitely fixed, the necessary adjustments can be made and the lakefront development carried forward without the confusion and uncertainty now existing. If the site question is left undetermined for another indefinite period, additional grievances, protests and bitterness will be engendered as new homes are built and new interests vested that may be adversely affected by final location of the negro bathing facility in close proximity therewith. From this time forth, delay can only increase the trouble and difficulty of the final selection.

This newspaper does not advocate any particular site. It does share however the general community belief that in fairness and justice the city's negro population should be allotted a bathing beach for its own use. The sooner the matter of that beach's location is definitely settled, the better in our opinion for all concerned and for the community interest.

Parks and Recreation - 1931

PARK BOARD IS FOR SEPARATE GOLF LINKS

Call

Dr. D. M. Miller Asks for Course "to Ourselves;" Gets Approval

5-12-31

Kansas City

Despite the fact that the park board has 1,350 acres of land in Swope park, a public playground, and in the park has four municipal golf links, it told a delegation of Negroes yesterday afternoon that "if you will go out and find a place where we can build a golf course for colored people and let us know about it, we will see what we can do."

Negro Taxpayers Help Maintain Swope Park

Negroes have been paying taxes all these years which go to maintain Swope park and which helped in the beginning to establish all four golf courses now used by whites exclusively. Part of the money for every automobile city license tag bought by Negroes goes to maintain Swope park.

The board spoke after Dr. D. M. Miller had made a short speech asking for a separate golf course. Dr. Miller said:

"We want a golf course to ourselves. Some hot-headed Negroes and some hot-headed white boys might get out there together and in a minute would do something which we all would regret."

Dr. Miller lavished praise on the white folks of Kansas City when he said:

Praises White Folks

"We come before you knowing that through the generosity and kindliness of the white citizens of this city we Negroes are better taken care of than in any city in any county in these whole United States."

The park board members are W. H. Dunn, superintendent of parks, whose lifetime policy has been to keep Negroes out of Swope park whenever possible, law or no law, were much pleased with this line of talk and reared back in their seats comfortably.

When Dr. Miller asked for a separate golf course, the members nodded their heads and one said "that's what I think they need."

Dr. Miller made the point that the National Medical association, composed of 700 to 1,000 Negro doctors, would like to come to Kansas City for its convention, but found several other cities ready to offer much better recreation and much less insult. He said Omaha, Nebr., and Minneapolis, Minn., were being considered. Dr. Miller said he thought if the board could find some place for Negroes to play golf, perhaps it would help the doctors decide to come to Kansas City.

Case Now in Supreme Court

There is a case now on the docket of the Missouri supreme court which was brought by Negro citizens of Kansas City who were refused the right to play on one of the courses at Swope park. The petition now before the supreme court seeks to make the city allow Negroes, who are tax payers, to use the property which their taxes are helping to keep up. This case was set for April 30, but has been set over by the state supreme court until the September term of court. Shortly before the case was filed, Dr. Miller appeared before the local golf club and asked them not to do anything "radical" as he had a white political friend who had absolutely promised that the Negroes would have a golf course. Not trusting this message too well, the golf club later voted to bear the expenses of the supreme court case.

Now, from the meeting held yesterday afternoon, it seems the politician on whom Dr. Miller was depending, has not functioned. The park board say it "may" do something after Negroes find a site for it.

Among those in the delegation were Dr. J. R. Williams, Dr. Eugene Rummons, Lemuel Russell, W. G. Moseley, Edward S. Lewis, C. H. Calloway, Dr. Ben Moore and Dr. Lon Tillman.

Parks and Recreation—1931.

New Jersey

Built A Million Dollar Bath House To Defeat Atlantic City Jim Crow

Pittsburgh Courier 1/24/31
St. Louis, Mo.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Jan. 15—(ANP) An approach to a resolution of one of the segregation problems of this city which involved a separate bathing beach and bathhouse for Negroes to be provided by the city, has been made with the successful completion and operation of Walkers' Baths.

When segregation proposals were first made, Richard Walker, a citizen of independent means, began seeking a boardwalk location where a bathhouse might be made available to all Americans alike. He succeeded in acquiring a place, convenient to all, near the million-dollar pier, with 600 steel lockers 325 locker rooms, three large showers

It cost more than a quarter of a million dollars to finance the proposition, but Mr. Walker and his wife obtained the money with the assistance of their white friends and are the legal owners of the business.

Their success last summer has encouraged them in their prospects for the new season this year and has served to convince the city fathers that it is not necessary to Jim-Crow Negroes in the waters of the Atlantic ocean

Parks and Recreation - 1931

NEW YORK TIMES

DEC 2 1931

M'KEE BLOCKS PLAN FOR HOSPITAL POOL

Criticizes Request for $15,000 Swimming Place for Harlem Nurses and Internes.

$1,003,125 ITEMS APPROVED

But $6,703,194 in Other Projects Is Held Up — Greeff Program Assailed as Extravagant.

Acting Mayor Joseph V. McKee never has been parsimonious in his treatment of the citys hospital needs, but he is disposed to draw the line against the building of a costly swimming pool for the benefit of the white and Negro internes and nurses of the renovated Harlem Hospital.

Large appropriations for hospitals were criticized sharply at yesterday's meeting of the Board of Estimate, sitting in Committee of the Whole. Items calling for repairs, additions and estimates of cost, amounting to $1,003,125, were reported out for approval, while additional items aggregating $6,703,194 went over for later consideration. Of the thirty-three hospital requisition on the calendar, none actually was denied.

Dr. J. G. Wiliam Greeff, Commissioner of Hospitals, had requested approval of preliminary plans for the construction and equipment of an out-patient building for the Harlem Hospital at an estimated cost of $1,400,000. When Mr. McKee noticed that one of the contributory items specified the construction of a swimming pool for internes and nurses at an estimated cost of $15,000, he observed:

"The private hospitals of the city are asking us for an additional $2,500,000 a year to care for the city's dependents in their institutions and here we have a request for a swimming pool, 'with a gallery.' The chair moves that this be referred back for further study and consideration."

Stewart Browne, president of the United Real Estate Owners' Associatioon, declared the Hospital Department was "runing wild" in its requests for appropriations. James N. Butterly, an attorney, sustained the protest, declaring: "We ought to pay more attention to prevention and less to cure; we ought to build 'preventoriums' instead of so many hospitals."

Among the larger items approved were: Preliminary plans for construction and equipment for buildings at City Hospital on Welfare Island, at an estimated cost of $550,000; $50,000 to complete the equipment of the new out-patient building and women's dormitory at Bellevue Hospital; construction and equipment of a new mortuary building at City Hospital, estimated to cost $99,125; $50,000 for medical and surgical supplies for the Hospital Department; material and labor for construction work at Harlem Hospital, $45,000.

Swimmirg Pool For Nurses

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 — (CNS)— Colored Nurses, internes and attendants at Harlem Hospital here will have a swimming pool for their exerices and recreation when the new out-patient building of the hospital is completed. The building which is being erected in the center of the city's Negro population will cost $1,400,000 of which $15,000 will be spent on the swimming pool. This item which was questioned at a recent meeting of the Board of Aldermen was finally approved by the board when it was stated that the hospital workers would need some proper facilities for recreation between the long and and tedious hours spent in caring for the sick.

Parks and Recreation-1931

NORTH CAROLINA SEASHORE RESORT LAUNCHES EXPANSION PROGRAM

Norfolk Journal & Guide

Proprietor, At End Of Successful Season, Seeks To Develop Summer Colony

9-12-31

ELIZABETH CITY, N.C.—A seashore which started in a small way last June as the personal adventure of Henry C. Hargraves, a resident of this city, received such patronage and encouragement this past summer that plans are already being made to develop the project further.

Foreseeing that the Carolina coast in a few years will be occupied by whites who are increasing their holdings to a large extent, and knowing that soon both prices and convention would keep Negroes from owning any of the land washed by the waters of the Atlantic, Mr. Hargraves gradually invested his saving in a piece of property, comprising of 38 acres, and fronting the waters of the ocean on one side and those of the Currituck Sound on the other. 9-12-31

The land is about three and one-half miles north of the Wright Memorial Bridge and a mile south of Duck and lies in Dare county. Following the coast from Virginia Beach, Va., it lies a relatively few miles from Norfolk. It is easily reached from Elizabeth City.

During the summer now closing, Mr. Hargraves built a cottage for himself a dance pavilion, two bath houses, and a 700-foot pier on the property adjoining the sound. The pier thus afforded a place for tying up the number of sail boats coming from Currituck and Dare communities.

For next summer plans call for the development of the ocean front and the property, for the laying out of a tourist camp, and the erection of a hotel.

"This expansion is justified," says Mr. Hargrave, "due to the kind of reception which the beach received from June to August," and as this beach is the only one owned and operated by and for colored people in its territory, he believes that "It will fill a need which will necessitate further development."

Mr. Hargraves does not intend to make the place just commercialize resort where people come and go, and he hopes that besides the resort features, it will grow up into a community of people owning cottages and having nearby the advantages of recreational waterfront, a hotel, and amusements. His plans, in other worlds, would make his place a kind of Idlewild of the East. Norfolk, Va.

Mr. Hargraves, now that the place has demonstrated that it can be made "to go," is offering several lots to the public, to such people as are desirous of owning a home on the Carolina coast served, with good roads, and near to the waters of both a sound and the ocean.

South Carolina.

Parks and Recreation-1931

Spartanburg, S. C., Herald
Tuesday, February 24, 1931

Negro Playground Daily Attendance Now More Than 30

The executive committee of the Colored Community center on Brush street met last night and heard reports concerning the work being done by the center.

Total attendance at the playground during January was 978, the daily average being better than 30, it was shown, no accidents of any kind being reported. Activities of the kindergarten, mothers club and the library were described. There are 500 books in the library at present.

On January 7, a clinic was held at the center and more than 22 children examined.

The committee paid tribute to Lydia Rodgers, nurse, for the fine work she has been doing in the community.

Parks and Recreation-1931

Tennessee

Whole City Turns Out for Historic Occasion

December 3-28-31

Chicago, Ill

MEMPHIS, March 24.—With its accustomed chairman, George W. Lee, at the head of the parade, and its accustomed oracle, R. R. Church, looking as usual over the rear, Beale St., famous above all streets in the United States, was merry Monday for the first time since the bank disaster overtook it four years ago.

Thousands of Memphans, of both races, joined in the dedication of a new Beale street park, situated in the heart of the city.

And as if to make the occasion complete for all future records, W. C. Handy, who took Bealt St. to New York only after Beale St. had taken him to fame and fortune, returned home to be center of the day's festivities.

New Park Dedicated

The new park, on the site of the old market house, once the center of all political power in the city, at the corner of Third and Beale, is a show site not only for Memphis but for all the South. It is located on the highway of the business and commercial life of the city, in the very heart of this, the cosmopolitan capital of the New South.

The entire city is built around it and the citizens of Memphis are jubilant that the city fathers, advanced beyond the city officials in all Dixie, yielded them their heritage without a contest.

When Handy stepped off the train an orchestra, many of the boys who used to play under the great composer, told him to pull out a new "blues" in honor of new Memphis and they would play it on the spot. Handy promised a new "blues" soon.

Noted Men Take Part

Not only all the leading Colored men in Memphis and of the territory as far west as Little Rock, as far south as Vicksburg, and as far north as Nashville had a part in the festivities, but prominent white citizens had seats on the reviewing stand and spoke of the occasion as marking a new day for the South's freest and most progressive city.

Former Gov. M. R. Patterson, long popular with Colored people, and the South's ablest son, Judge Harry Anderson, who put Colored men back on the federal jury; Edward H. Crump, the new congressman, and hero of every white and Colored boy within a radius of 100 miles and Tennessee's unquestioned political leader, these were in the picture with smiles and cheers and kind words.

A. L. Parker, chairman of the Memphis park commission, was prominent in the program and the entire city commission was on hand.

Whole City Parades

Beginning at Church's park the parade, making its way to Beale and Third, only three blocks away, looked like it was made up of the whole town.

The units which participated in the parade included: Illinois Central Booster club with float, band and marching club; Knights of Pythias, made up of Omaha Uniform rank and members in full regalia; the Negro Masons, headed by the Knights Templar with plumes and gay uniforms; J. Goldsmith and Sons, with marching club; a marching club from the city department of streets, bridges and sewers; Autress Russell post No. 27, American Legion, with a marching club of 100 veterans in uniform; Booker Washington high school, under the leadership of Prof. G. P. Hamilton; Porter school, under Prof. L. E. Brown; Kortrecht grammar school, under Prof. D. W. Gary; Grant school, under Prof. Honesty; Manassas high school, under Prof. A. Hayes; playground units under Directress B. Mackey; LeMoyne Junior college, under President F. Sweeney; Howe-Roger college, under Dr. T. O. Fuller; LaRose school, under Prof. B. T. Hunt, and Greenwood school under Prof. R. H. Nevill.

The committee on dedication arrangements was headed by Lieut. G. W. Lee, with M. S. Stuart as secretary and was composed of the following: S. W. Quails, Frank Davis, N. H. Owens, M. Thornton Sr., Dr. E. Buckner, Dr. J. J. Raines, Dr. R. S. Fields, Dr. L. A. West, George J. Strong, R. B. Strong, T. H. Olden, Rev. C. W. Graham, J. R. Love, Amos Braughns, Eddie Hayes, A. B. Brown, A. P. Martin, T. H. Hayes Jr., Dr. F. A. Moore, M. Veasey, C. A. Valle, A. R. Chauver, W. R. Martin, William Jenkins, J. O. Wilson, W. A. Hawkins, George Hulsey, James Wyatt, M. Lofton, S. A. D. Harris, Dr. R. Q. Vensen, M. Hulbert and F. W. Nelson.

Other guests were A. L. Parker of the Memphis park commission; Rev. W. Y. Bell, Judge Anderson, Prof. R. L. Jones, superintendent of city schools; Rev. R. B. Roberts, president T. S. Brown, Bert Bates, Ralph Picard, Col. Roane Waring, Dr. A. N. Kittrell, Rev. L. C. Jones, Dr. L. G. Patterson, Jack Gates, Frank Rice, R. D. Church, Dr. J. J. Raines, F. Davis and S. W. Qualls.

Beale Street Honors Noted Song Writer

December 4-4-31

Chicago, Illinois

By T. J. JOHNSON

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 3.—Beale St.! As though rising out of the sepulcher of the dead this old thoroughfare came forth arrayed in all the pomp and splendor of the past.

There was a reason. The old Market house, around which clings so many fond memories, had been salvaged and on the very spot where it had rested for years a park, unique beautiful and complete, was being formally dedicated.

Twenty thousand were there to witness the ceremonies. W. C. Handy, originator of the blues, was the guest of honor. City officials, county officers, judges of the United States court, educators of national repute, ministers of the gospel, newspaper reporters, movie photographers and radio announcers all played their part in this colorful celebration.

Church and Lee

Lieut. George W. Lee, young, active and competent, was at the helm. Yet behind him and his committee, could be plainly seen the powerful hand of "Bob" Church, whose magic power is demonstrated in silence and whose every wish may at any time call forth a multitude that no man can number.

The program was scheduled for 2:30 p. m., but even before the vertical rays of the sun had rested on her bosom, old Beale began to "strut her stuff," from Main to Turley, with her maids and matrons in fashionable display. Grand, indeed, was the occasion. It started with a parade. Bands, and bands, and bands were in the long line of march, measuring approximately two miles. It was headed by the Legionnaires, fraternal orders turned out in gorgeous costumes, thousands of school children were in the line of march; floats, massive and beautiful, were in line; clubs, religious, social and civic, were in evidence; a hundred or more banners bared themselves to the breeze as acres of people read and reread their silent utterances.

Handy Honored

Long before the march ended the prepared program had begun. It started when Lee, Stuart and Handy, who rode in the first car, mounted the platform. The speakers were already there, and when Miss Lucy Campbell raised her baton and her chorus began singing, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Negro national anthem, the fireworks started.

Rev. Benjamin J. Perkins introduced the master of ceremonies, George W. Lee, who stood before the microphone and eloquently told the eager and enthusiastic crowd and the other numberless thousands who tuned in over WNBR, what it was all about. Then came M. S. Stuart, who in his prolific and scholarful manner introduced the vice mayor of Memphis, Hon. Clifford Davis. His honor spoke clearly and impassionately as he presented the park in the name of the city of Memphis. Next was George J. Strong, editor of the Mid-South Liberator, himself a lad, but filling a man's boots, as he presented the talented scholar and minister, Dr. W. Y. Bell, dean of Gammon Theological seminary, Atlanta, Ga., and pastor of the local Mt. Olive C. M. E. church, who received the park in behalf of the Colored people of Memphis.

Other persons on the program were Prof. Frank Sweeney, president of LeMoyne college; Dr. L. A. West, head of Mercy hospital and ex-president of the National Negro Medical association; Colonel Bacon, sheriff of Shelby county; John R. Love, musician, who in his modest and effective way presented the guest of honor, W. C. Handy of New York.

Handy, following a roar of continued applause, reached back into the archives of the past, emphasizing pleasant memories experienced on Beale and citing their importance in his career as a successful musician. Preceding hm the program provded for one of hs famous selectons, and as the band played "The Beale St. Blues," the jubilant crowd yelled and waved until the density of the air made hoarse their weakened voices.

Judge Anderson's Great Speech

Only the masterful address of Judge Harry B. Anderson of the United States district court was sufficient to rekindle the high enthusiasm of the vast multitude. His was a prepared address, which made its direct appeal to the hearts of the Colored people, extolling their rare gifts and virtues and depicting the glory and grandeur of the future that awaits them.

The program ended with the presentation of trophies for the best float and the two best school units in the parade. The former was given by his honor, Congressman Edward H. Crump, whose name linked with that of "Bob" Church was many times mentioned by the various speakers on the program. The other two were the gifts of two of our leading undertaking establishments, S. W. Qualls & Co. and T. H. Hayes & Son.

Truly Beale St. has seen a great day. With the presence of Handy, her gifted master of original music, she is beside herself. Only Roscoe Simmons, her prince of orators, was needed; then her celebration could have been complete.

DEDICATE NEGRO PARK AS 10,000 LOOK ON

Commercial Appeal

Handy Plays His "Blues" at Beale Street Celebration.

3-30-31

Beale Street Square was dedicated yesterday afternoon with one of the biggest celebrations in the history of the famous thoroughfare.

Memphis,

With some 10,000 spectators crowding over the square and filling adjacent streets from curb to curb, street car traffic was held up for nearly an hour and thousands of automobiles were routed away from the park.

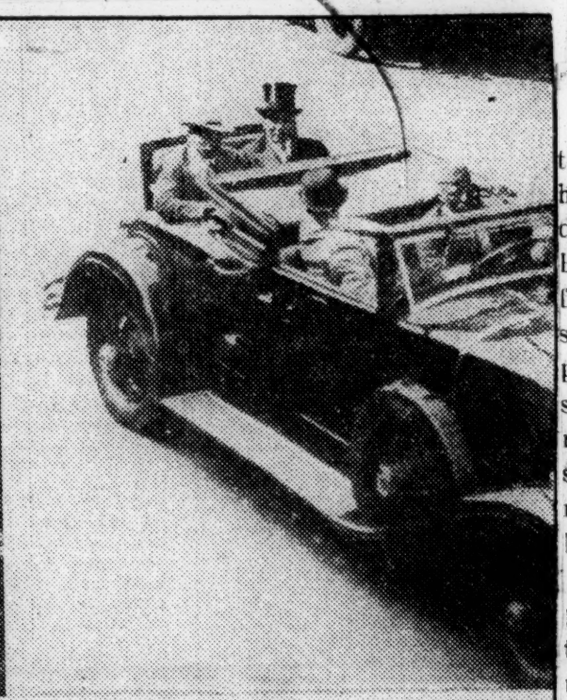
Almost everybody saw the colorful parade, but only a part of the enormous crowd was able to get close enough to hear the program.

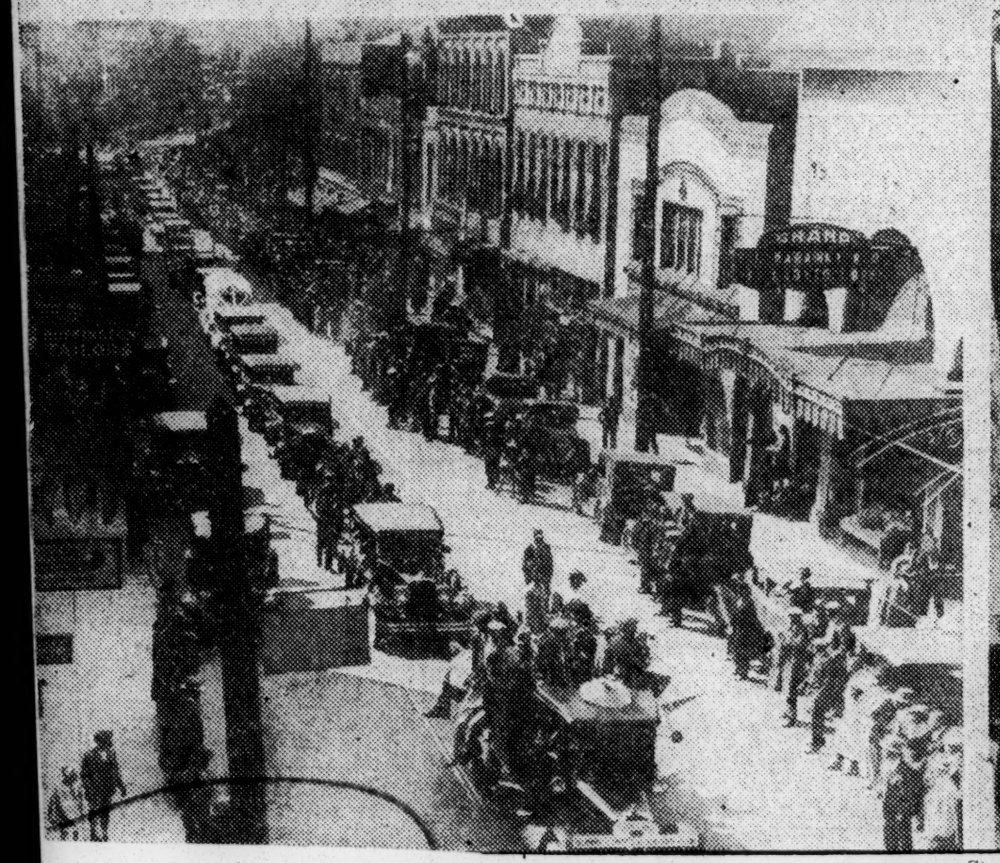
W. C. Handy didn't have to ride the rods to get here, but he was there in a high silk hat to ride at the head of the parade and he later mounted the platform to lead a 25-piece orchestra in his "Memphis Blues." His famous "Beale Street Blues" and a new arrangement of this tune were also played.

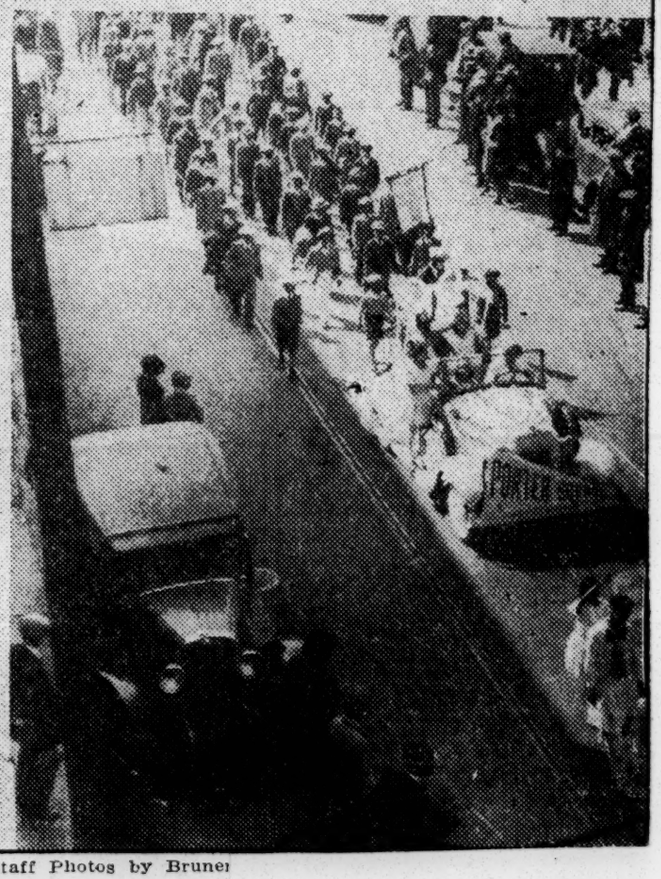
A movement was definitely launched yesterday to have the park named "Handy Square," in honor of the composer of these and other pieces in which started the "blues era" of popular music. The park commission has named the square Beale Avenue ark, but Lt. G. W. Lee and others will seek to have it changed.

Lieutenant Lee was in charge of the program yesterday, which included addresses by Judge Anderson and Vice Mayor Davis

As That "Blues" Street Celebrated







—Staff Photos by Bruner

Beale Street's gala day. Thousands gathered yesterday to watch the parade and formal dedication of the new square for negroes on Beale Avenue and South Third Street.

Upper left, the crowd; upper right, W. C. Handy, composer of "Beale Street Blues," for whom the park is to be named, riding in the parade, silk hat and all. Below, two views of the parade, composed of children from the negro schools, hundreds of negro workmen, business men, lodge members, etc.

MEMPHIS, TENN.
EVE. APPEAL

AUG 25 1931

Negro Playgrounds

Those northern intellectuals who rant about the condition of the negro in the south should have been in Memphis last Friday when hundreds of negro children gathered in Douglas Park for competitive games and a competitive flag lowering exhibition. They should have seen the pride those children displayed, their pep, their eagerness to honor their flag. They should have heard hundreds of childish voices raised in a pledge of loyalty. They should have seen how a southern city endeavors to help its negro children cultivate character and healthy bodies.

There are six negro playgrounds in Memphis, a credit to the city and an especial credit to the park commission. If you think they are not appreciated by those they serve go out to Orange Mound park where unemployed negro men built a wading pool for the children. It is one of the best pools in the city.

Northern politicians may tell us how to get along with negroes, but they, and not we, still have to worry about race wars.

Parks and Recreation - 1931

Texas

GALVESTON, TEX.
TRIBUNE

MAY 8 1931

NEGROES VOICE NEED OF PARKS

Sincerity of Administration Questioned

Direct proof of the insincerity of the present city administration in its promises to give the negro citizens a playground was seen in the action of the board in refusing yesterday a request by Finance Commissioner Jacob Singer to set aside $50,000 for the purpose, Henry O'Dell said in an address before a rally for negroes at 35th and N last night.

The rally was free from the disturbances attending on the previous negro meetings of the independent citizens' party. At one time there was a disturbance caused by loud talking on the outskirts of the crowd, but it was quieted when a negro speaker made the prize witticism of the campaign:

"Will you please be quiet. We are trying to get you a place to play."

O'Dell referred to a declaration by Mayor Jack Pearce that money would be set aside for a negro playground. "When Mr. Singer made a motion at the board of city commissioners yesterday morning to set aside $50,000 for your playground, your mayor said the city didn't have the money, that it was tied up in unsold bonds. Then why didn't he agree to set aside $50,000 of the bonds? It's because he doesn't intend to give you a park."

D. H. Hamilton reviewed the history of the city party. "I was one of the delegates who helped to organize it," he said. "I know the inside story. Mr. O'Dell and Mr. Anderson were also delegates. It was a good party then. But when Mayor Pearce and the wharf company got control of it, it became a bad party, and I got out. Most of you negroes have stuck by it with the result that today most of you are without work, and your wives are employed to feed you and keep you clothed.

"The city party says Pelican can't be developed. They spoke the truth insofar as the city party is concerned. Pelican can't be developed as long as the wharf company controls city government, because it doesn't want any competition across the channel."

George W. Fraser, candidate for police and fire commissioner, spoke of the present police department as a group of "bullies, ward heelers and collectors, with a few fine, sincere men sprinkled in." He predicted success for the independent party ticket and said that he would put men in his department who would enforce the law instead of taking their position as an opportunity for "shakedowns."

Jules Damiani, candidate for mayor, criticised the record of the city party in office and promised a progressive administration, with immediate action to bring more industries and payrolls to Galveston.

Jacob Singer, finance commissioner, spoke of attempts of city party men to break up the previous rallies and declared that the city police had failed to uphold the constitutional rights of assembly by refusing to send policemen to maintain order. He praised the negro citizenship for their quiet attention at the meetings.

GALVESTON, TEX.
TRIBUNE

NOV 5 1931

Inconvenience of the Negro Park

It is a queer commentary on democratic government that the wishes of the people of Galveston were not considered in the matter of locating the new negro park and playground.

Public parks are intended for the convenience and recreation of those who will use them; their location is important from a standpoint of utility and service. But here we have an administration which apparently insists on putting a negro park on a site removed from the center of negro population. The section around 41st and 42d between P and Q is a white residential district. The negroes must walk or drive their own cars or ride the street cars for several blocks to reach it. By no stretch of the imagination can we see why either white or negro citizens would seek such location for a negro park.

The Tribune has insisted all along that the negroes deserve a playground of their own and should have it at the earliest possible time, and our only quarrel with the whole project is the illogical location chosen for the park. It seems to us that the negroes themselves should object to the location as too far removed from their homes.

After all, public officers are supposed to be serving the interests of the people who elect them and pay them, even if that theory doesn't always work out in practice. But in such a simple matter as the location of a park it does seem that the expressed wish of the people affected would be the deciding factor. In this case such wishes and protests have been ignored.

The problem is not one of lack of available sites. The availability of Lasker Park already has been pointed out; it is large enough and well equipped and could be improved if necessary. And it is nearer the homes of the people it would serve. What possible objection could there be to giving the negroes Lasker Park, under a new name and replacing it with a park for the whites on the new site?

Parks and Recreation - 1931

Richmond, Va. Times-Dispatch
Thursday, June 25, 1931

NORFOLK BEACH CASE SUBMITTED

Concerns Condemnation of Princess Anne Land for Negroes' Use.

WYTHEVILLE, Va., June 25.—(Special to The News Leader.)—Arguments were heard today by the supreme court of appeals of Virginia in the case of E. A. Page and others against the commonwealth of Virginia, at the relation of the city of Norfolk, which involves the right of that city to condemn certain lands in Princess Anne county for use as a bathing beach and park for the Negro residents of the city.

The case was argued by John N Sebrell, attorney for the city of Norfolk, and by William G. Maupin. The record in the case shows that the city of Norfolk desired to acquire 14.841 acres of land belonging to the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad Company, leased to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, situated on the shores of Chesapeake bay near Little Creek, in Princess Anne county. The tract to be used for a bathing beach and park for the Negro residents of the city.

Since the city of Norfolk is a municipal corporation and the owner and lessee to the tract desired are public service corporations, it was necessary to obtain premission of the Virginia state corporation commission before condemnation proceedings could be commenced in the circuit court of Princess Anne county, the owner of the land having declined to sell it to the city.

Application for this permission was filed with corporation commission September 15, 1930, and after a hearing the commission by an order entered on December 22, 1930, gave its permission permitting the city of Norfolk to take by condemnation the property desired.

At this stage of the litigation certain citizens who are taxpayers and owners of lands adjacent to or in the vicinity of the land sought to be condemned intervened and obtained an appeal from the order of the state corporation commission to the supreme court of appeals which was heard today.

Court Adjourns.

The court, which has been in session here since June 9, adjourned today for the term. The next term of the court will begin in Staunton September 8.

Forty-eight opinions were delivered by the court during the term at Wytheville, and thirty-eight cases were argued and submitted. Most of the cases argued in Wytheville are expected to be decided at the fall term in Staunton.

A rehearing was granted by the court today in the case of Standard Oil Company of New Jersey against Robert Gray Davis, infant, etc., from the circuit court of Middlesex county.

A rehearing was refused in the case of R. L. Law and others against Grover Perdue, from the circuit court of Botetourt county.

A writ of error and supersedeas was also refused in the case of McGuire & Rolfe, Inc., against the National Surety Company from the law and equity court, city of Richmond.

The case of Bach against Bank of Pocahontas from the circuit court of Tazewell county was argued by R. O. Crockett and N. Clarence Smith and submitted.

Further proceedings follow: Nick J. Brown against Sallie M. Bowden and others from the circuit court of Patrick county reversed and remanded to the lower court.

Appeal refused in D. S. Bray against J. P. Fuller from the circuit court of Dickinson county.

Appeal refused in D. C. Sloan against James W. Orr from the circuit court of Lee county.

Writ of error granted in Lynchburg Traction and Light Company against Florence Garbee.

Richmond Gets New Playground

RICHMOND, Va.—(CNS)—Due to its location in a colored settlement, the Clark Springs playground, one of the largest white recreational grounds in the city will be turned over to Negroes at a very early date, according to the annual report of the parks and recreation director.

The city now operates twenty playgrounds of which seven are for Negro children and thirteen for the white children.

Since the establishment of the playground at Clark Springs the majority of the white residents have moved away from the surrounding neighborhood and it is now thickly settled with Negroes. During the spring season the splendid baseball diamonds at the Clark Springs ground were practically unused, while other playground diamonds were not able to accommodate the demand for them.

Across the street from the Clark Springs ground is the old Marshall reservoir, now unused. A movement to convert the reservoir into a Negro swimming pool was started two years ago, but was unsuccessful.

NORFOLK, VA.
LEDGER-DISPATCH

SEP 18 1931

THE NEGRO BATHING BEACH

Under the assumption that no further legal steps will be taken, or undertaken, by opponents of the bathing beach for Negroes near Little Creek—and that assumption would seem to be justified by the fact that the State Corporation Commission and the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia have both decided adversely to the opponents—simple, primary justice now demands that the City of Norfolk proceed to acquire the land in question and to dedicate it to the purposes for which its acquisition has been sought.

It is true, of course, that Norfolk can at this time afford no considerable extra-routine expenditures except such as are called for by extraordinary circumstances. But it is also true that the circumstances that surround this case, and that will demand the necessary expenditure, are extraordinary. That they are extraordinary has been recognized for several years by the men and women of Norfolk who have thought the thing through.

Our population is approximately 40 per cent colored. Of our population of some 130,000, about 52,000 are Negroes. They are, in the main, among the best Negroes in the United States—as are most of the Negroes in Virginia. There are bad actors and idlers and thugs among them, as there are bad actors and idlers and thugs among the whites. But in the main, they are kindly, well-disposed, helpful and infinitely patient under the stress of circumstances. It behooves the whites, then, to treat them—well, to treat them with justice, at least.

We have not treated them with justice with respect to one aspect of their life, and ours, here in this community. We know, and properly boast, that one of the features of this community that make it a desirable place in which to live is the availability of a number of deep-water bathing beaches. In this semi-tropical climate of ours in Virginia, those beaches draw thousands of visitors from inland sections every summer. And they help to keep us from much of the suffering that oppresses inlanders. We have miles of these beaches.

Yet on this side of Hampton Roads, these more than 50,000 Negroes have not one foot of deep-water frontage set apart for them—for their health, their happiness or even their moderate contentment. They have a right, and we might as well admit it, to use every public beach with the same freedom that the whites enjoy. That they have refrained from attempting to exercise that right is to their eternal credit. Oh, yes, it's easy enough to say that they would not be permitted to use any of the public beaches. But the fact is that, if they chose to stand on their rights, the law would eventually be forced to uphold them and only mob violence could for a time deprive them of their rights.

Living in sections, in houses, on streets, in which it is impossible for them, in the mass, to be as comfortable during stifling nights and blazing days as our whites are able to make themselves, their plight calls aloud for justice. Not consideration, not kindliness, not thoughtfulness, if we like—but mere justice.

Since the Pennsylvania Railroad evinced its willingness to sell the property in question without profit to itself, summers have come and gone, and our Negroes have sweltered in their heat—without the relief that justice demands for them.

Another summer must not pass, must not even begin, without the grant of that relief. It is the city's duty to proceed, without any other delay than the technicalities of the case may interpose, to condemn the land and convert it into such a bathing beach as both humanity and justice have long been calling for in behalf of a group whose lot in life is hard enough without gratuitous oppression or callous neglect.

TIMES
Cape Charles, Va.

SEP 17 1931

NOW, HOW ABOUT NORFOLK'S NEGRO BATHING BEACH

The estimable press of our venerable neighbor, the city of Norfolk, treats the public this week to the welcome information that its latest sensation involving the location of an Air Port, has, for the present at least, subsided, and that the unhappy developments which visited the controversy over whether Truxton Manor or the Grand Central tract should be adopted are ended. This much behind us and the Harper saturnalia apparently nearing the home stretch, it is perhaps in order to resume listening for a revival of the Negro bathing beach project, which for some time has served as a convenient subject for discussion when councilmanic besiness sags for lack of incentive.

THE TIMES is not unmindful of the local characteristics of this question, nor the caution with which we should opproach the subject editorially, but realizes also that it is so far a public and humanitarian matter as to properly enlist the sympathetic at-

tention of all outsiders who reverence the principle of equality in the administration of community government. The population of Norfolk is said to be about one-third Negro; its white element seems to enjoy recreational facilities quite in keeping with their numbers, and while the city exhibits occasionally a commendable awakening to the need of its Negroes in this behalf, its movements for their relief have not progressed after a manner calculated to inspire either hope or confidence.

Another Summer—one of the hottest on record—has nearly passed, yet all last year Norfolk marked time on this project, and the case seems now to have taken permanent quarters in a pigeon hole.

Norfolk should, it seems not only to us but many other outsiders, for Norfolk's own sake provide its Negroes this much needed recreational facility; self interest, and fairness dictate it.

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT

SEP 19 1931

The Negro Beach Decision

Since it was not possible for opponents of the beach project to argue that the city of Norfolk has the right to establish beaches, golf courses and other recreation facilities for its white population, but no corresponding right to establish such facilities for its colored population, they were driven to the expedient of trying to prove that the establishment of beach and recreation facilities for the 45,000 Negro population of Norfolk (at present wholly without such facilities) could not qualify as an undertaking demanded by public convenience or necessity, and that therefore the city was without right to exercise its power of eminent domain to acquire property for such a purpose.

The State Corporation Commission, which was the first body to hear this argument, rejected it in a plain-spoken opinion. The State Supreme Court, to which this judgment was appealed, now holds with the Corporation Commission. The opposition to the Negro beach project has been so resourceful in the past that one may not say with complete assurance that this ends the legal war over this enterprise, but the most formidable obstacles have been surmounted. There has never been any question about the social justice of what the City Council was here undertaking to do. There is now no question as to the city's authority. The owner of the land and the city being in complete agreement as to the price, the condemnation proceedings shortly to be instituted should threaten no further delays. The city should acquire title to the Little Creek site with the shortest possible loss of time, even if the straitened condition of its finances will prevent for some time to come the installation of the elementary conveniences and improvements that will be necessary. Full development of this recreation facility will take time. The important immediate objective is to go through with the condemnation and acquire the property. The future will take care of the rest.

Parks and Recreation-1931.

Virginia.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
Friday, February 27, 1931

SOLUTION OF NEGRO BEACH PROBLEM IS NOT PROBABLE SOON

Paper Not Yet Completed for Carrying Controversy To Supreme Court

The possibility of reaching a solution of the Negro bathing beach problem before the summer resort season opens now appears to have become more remote.

William G. Maupin, counsel for a group of Ocean View property owners who are opposing the location of the Negro resort on a proposed site at Little Creek, on Chesapeake Bay, and who is going to carry the fight to the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia, has not prepared the final papers in his appeal.

The State Corporation Commission, which several months ago acted favorably on an application of the city of Norfolk to acquire the tract in question, has not forwarded to Mr. Maupin, nor to the City Attorney, its records in the case on which the appeal will be made. One reason for the delay, assigned by the commission, is that one of the exhibits filed when the city of Norfolk applied for the permit to acquire the property, has been lost.

Not Intentional Delay

City Attorney Sebrell stated yesterday he had advised the commission that it would be acceptable to him to have the record made up without the missing exhibit, which consists of a newspaper clipping bearing on the controversy over the Negro resort.

Mr. Maupin said he was not attempting unnecessarily to delay action on the matter, and was ready to take it to the Supreme Court whenever the commission's record in the matter was made available. City Attorney Sebrell was rather skeptical yesterday over whether the due processes of the law could be completed in time to have the Negro resort ready to operate this summer, even should the appeal of the opponents of the development fail. After the Supreme Court acts in the matter—granting that the city should win in the appeal—it would be necessary to institute condemnation proceedings to acquire the land. It is unlikely that any decision could be obtained from the Supreme Court before June, even if the appeal should be made at once.

Parks and Recreation - 1931

Virginia

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN-PILOT

MAR 8 - 1931

Colored Beach a Public Necessity

The Corporation Commission's formal affirmation of its opinion of December 22, touching the proposal to establish a beach for colored people near Little Creek, disposes of an incorrect report of its findings and puts that body unconditionally on record in favor of the project. It was informally reported in connection with the Commission's decision last December to approve the condemnation proceedings, that it based its approval on the finding that a beach for Norfolk's colored people would be a public convenience, although not a public necessity. That was an incorrect report. Chairman Hooker, author of the Commission's opinion, holds that—

> The evidence is quite convincing that the public necessity requires that a public place be provided for the colored people residing within the city of Norfolk as a recreation park and bathing beach where the colored people may go and be free and unmolested in the enjoyment of the recreation and entertainment which a public park and bathing beach affords. The Commission is of the opinion that the evidence clearly establishes that a public necessity, or that an essential public convenience requires that the land be taken.

The question of public necessity and convenience was the only one before the Commission, since the only other question—that of Pennsylvania Railroad's need of the property in question for its own purposes—was settled by the railroad company's own exhibit showing that the land was surplus property and that it had no objection to its alienation to the city of Norfolk. With the Corporation Commission's formal opinion goes the printed record of the case, making possible the institution immediately of the supplementary proceedings. The next step, according to counsel for opposed property owners, is an appeal from the Commission's decision to the State Supreme Court. That is a statutory right and no one may take exception to its exercise by persons feeling themselves aggrieved by the finding. But it may reasonably be urged that no more time be lost in bringing the case to a final decision. Five months have elapsed since the city made its first move to institute condemnation proceedings. Two years have elapsed since the city selected the Little Creek site as the most suitable for this recreational utility. It can not be said that the project has not been amply discussed and debated. It is time now to press the issue to a final decision.

Those who, in the face of much criticism, have labored to rectify the injustice done the 45,000 colored people of this maritime city by its failure to provide them with any beach facilities whatever (although the white population is amply provided with public beaches, parks and golf links at public expense) have reason to take satisfaction in the Corporation Commission's support of their thesis in every important point. It has taken a long time for this community to become ashamed of its long-standing discrimination against a hard-working and comparatively helpless element of its population, but public opinion is now overwhelmingly united on the first step looking to its correction and will see the beach project through.

NORFOLK, VA.
VIRGINIAN PILOT

MAY 30 1931

One Beach That Isn't Opening

The shore resorts of this bay and sea-girt section are opening today—Virginia Beach, Ocean View, Chesapeake Beach, Ocean Park, Buckroe Beach, Lynnhaven, Cape Henry—and a happy holiday spirit is in the air. Summer is upon us with long hot days that leave one limp and worn, but within a few minutes by motor or a few more minutes by electric car, half a dozen wind-swept shores offer one pleasure and recreation. Tens of thousands of people will be pouring into our beach resorts every day from now on, from the city itself and from other places near and far. It is a benignant provision of nature, this generous and smiling shore line of ours, and a boon beyond compare to the population—to that part of the population which belongs to the Caucasian race.

For that part of the population that belongs to the Negro race—some 45,000 men, women and children—there will be no beach opening today. Neither today nor, unless a miracle happens, any time this summer. It was indeed planned to provide this group with a bare beach on Chesapeake Bay near Little Creek not later than this summer—the City Council had approved the plan and the State Corporation Commission had held it to be in the public interest—but property interests intervened and have so far kept the project enmeshed in red tape. Just now it is under review by the State Supreme Court. What the court will do the Virginian-Pilot has of course no way of knowing, but the merits of the Negro beach project (something distinct from the strictly legal question before the Supreme Court) leave in this newspaper's mind no doubt as to what this community will eventually do. This community will see to it that the 45,000 colored people of Norfolk are provided with a beach refuge from the summer's heat. It will see to it that the inhuman exclusion of this group from all shore bathing and recreation facilities will not be tolerated much longer. Regardless of the Supreme Court's ruling in the pending case, this prediction may be made, for the present state of affairs is intolerable and a reproach to our civilization.

Tuesday, May 26, 1931

Recreation Center And Swimming Pool For Lynchburg Negroes Are Discussed By Council -Other Business Matters

A recreation center consisting of play facilities and a swimming pool may be established by the city in or near Dearington to serve the Negro population of Lynchburg.

At city council meeting yesterday City Manager R. W. B. Hart was directed to investigate a site lying between Southern right of way and the city cemetery, and to make a report of his findings to the council at its first June sitting.

Other matters were attended to at the two-hour session yesterday. The council ordered several minor improvements, and asked Suhling and Company to vacate a part of Thirteenth street to make way for construction of the armory and market.

A temporary road crossing Miller park and linking Memorial with Fort avenue was authorized to be built immediately.

Playground Situation

Attention to the Dearington Negro playground situation was called by Harry R. Brown who asked when the city was going to improve a small tract in Dearington already dedicated to the city for play purpose. The city manager, describing the rugged terrain of the spot, said it would very expensive, not to say difficult, to improve it.

Last summer there was some agitation on the part of the Negro voters for a swimming pool, and although the council lent an ear to their proposals nothing was done. The Negroes now have four playgrounds, including one at Dearington school where the city maintains equipment and a paid director, but they do not have a swimming pool.

Several members of the council believed the site between the railroad and the cemetery was about as close to the center of Negro population as anyone available, and that a satisfactory recreation center could be made of it without going to a great deal of expense.

After the council had approved the conversion of a block southwest of Hollins Mill road on Bedford avenue from a residential to a business zone, a hitch arose when A. P. Thompson, 2122 Bedford avenue applied for a filling station permit there.

Hollins Road Station

Plans called for having a gasoline pump on Hollins Mill road to serve automobiles. To this Charles L. DeMott, objected, saying it is the general plan of civic groups to reserve Hollins Mill road as a parkway which has been and will be beautified from time to time.

The permit was withheld, but Mr. Thompson will be asked to submit his plans to the council for study before action on his request.

A resolution was unanimously adopted requesting Suhling and Company to remove from the right of way of Thirteenth street, its buildings and other structures by July 15.

The company has been using this space for various purposes in connection with the functions of its factories, having years ago obtained permission from the city to do so, and with the understanding the buildings would be removed at the request of the council.

Thirteenth street is to be opened to provide additional access to the proposed market. Ingress and egress will be gained from Church by an inclined street, or a ramp will be constructed to that level, keeping the grade of Thirteenth on a level with that of Main street.

The city manager said plans for both methods of approach would be included in architects' drawings of the armory-market building. Mr. Hart said the plan for opening Thirteenth street would be worked out with the view of solving the problem to the mutual advantage of Suhling and the city, if it were possible.

As to the market site, itself, the council moved that Paces warehouse would be paid for when a good and proper title together with the complete possession of the property was turned over to the municipality. City Manager Hart said that T. Gibson Hobbs city attorney has already been instructed to examine the title of Pace's warehouse. At the last meeting the council purchased the property of Pace's warehouse at a price of $40,000.

Forest Street

Instead of extending Forest street across the northeastern end of Miller park, beside the playground as recommended by the city planning commission, the city will build at the cost of $400 a road for temporary use from

Memorial to Fort avenue, skirting the edge of the park.

Plans are that some time in the future Forest street is to be extended across the city to Twelfth street where it will link up with Campbell avenue.

Howell C. Featherston insisted that this temporary road be built at once to provide a short cut for traffic and the fire trucks, when other members expressed their preference of waiting until the school board came to some decision about the park site for a new senior high school. The road was then ordered by a unanimous ballot.

By an amendment to the city code, the council placed machinery that is levied against for taxes in a separate class. Heretofore the machinery, assessed about a million dollars, was either classed under the head of tangible personalty or real estate, depending on whether or not it was attached or unattached to the building it occupied. The rate on machinery is $2.35 a hundred.

Council ordered the installation of a storm drainage sewer in Arlington place upon the petition of Joseph C. Smith and C. F. Outten. It will cost $200, of which one third will be returnable from property owners served.

A sidewalk on Euclid avenue between St. Augustine and Wadsworth streets was authorized at the cost of $180.

Turner Resents Criticism

Mr. Turner took exception to the remarks made in The News recently by one who signed himself "Observer". He read from the clipping the criticism of the council's action on establishing the market at Pace's warehouse, which the writer termed as an "underground" affair.

The writer alleged the council is going to spend $200,000 for the market. Mr. Turner asserted that neither statement is correct. The market is not going to be an underground affair nor will be the market cost that much, the councilman declared.

"Observer" declared in his letter that a large majority preferred that the market be put at Municipal stadium.

Mr. Hart informed the council that Lynchburg Traction and Light Company had already ordered materials for track structure on Fort avenue and that plans were to begin operations on the thoroughfare by June 1. Traction company is trying to borrow the money without resorting to the city's proposal to lend it the funds at six per cent interest, John Victor said.

The council approved the three-mile plan prepared by the city planning commission whereby under the Virginia plat act the municipality, with the cooperation of Bedford or Campbell counties, will be control over realty subdivisions in those territories.

The map was ordered filed with the clerks of Campbell, Bedford and Lynchburg courts of record. On the motion of Mr. Turner the council decided to have the commission prepare a similar map of Amherst county. The motion was carried by a four to one vote, Mr. Featherston casting the negative ballot. Mayor Tanner Kinnier had left the meeting.

Mr. Featherston did not see why it was necessary to plat the land within three miles of the city limits in Amherst county. He offered a substitute motion as to preparing a plan for roads and utilities which was not accepted.

As To Bond Issue

City Manager Hart was authorized to let the contract for preparing the bonds for the $450,000 serial issue. The council decided to engrave the borders of the bonds, and lithograph the center, which should provide a good bond for the city's sales.

The city manager was directed to replace the wooden steps leading from the bath house to the Guggenheimer swimming pool with concrete steps.

A resolution appropriating $1,700 for a sewer in Lee drive was adopted unanimously. The name of a part of Ridge street was changed to Plymouth place by a unanimous vote.

Resolutions assessing Dr. N. A. Patillo and others for the expenses of installing a sewer in South Princeton circle was passed.

Richmond, Va., News-Leader
Thursday, June 4, 1931

NEGRO COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT ASKED

Colored Playground and Recreation Association to Provide Classes.

Furnishings and equipment of all kinds are eneded by the community center opened Monday by the Colored Playgrounds and Recreation Association in the building at 112 West Charity street, formerly occupied by the Friends' Asylum for Colored Orphans.

It is the plan of the association to provide classes in recreation and education for children and adults, a meeting place for Negro groups and to develop eventually a center for all Negro activities in the city.

Following a reocmmendation by the Negro Welfare Survey and the Child Welfare Survey, the Friends' Asylum for Colored Orphans has entered the child placement field and has turned over its building to the recreation association for the establishment of the only Negro community center in Richmond. Offices of both organizations will be maintained there.

The buiing at present has no facilitides for such a center, and the recreation agency is resquesting all types of equipment to fit it for an adequate meeting place.

A list of articles needed follows: Chairs, tables, window shades, living-room suites, book cases, rugs or linoleum, piano, stoves, curtains, draperies, work benches for carpenters, tools, pool tables, lamps, tennis racquets, golf clubs and balls for use on a miniature course, sewing machine and a radio.

Any of these articles will be welcomed by the organization and will be called for. Telephone 2-0940.

Richmond, Va., News-Leader
Wednesday, June 3, 1931

Richmond Needs More Swimming Pools and Small Fee for Use Of Shields' Lake Is Suggested

Survey Reveals Fact That Large Numbers of Boys and Girls Are Remote From Only Public Bathing Place.

[Editor's Note—Although the provision of all forms of recreation is recognized as an obligation of every municipal government not a few cities avoid their responsibility because of its cost. In the following article The News Leader's special investigator discusses a recent proposal designed to provide funds for the construction of additional swimming pools in Richmond.]

By JOHN J. CORSON, III.

In his last annual report Chief J. Malcolm Pace, of the municipal bureau of parks and recreation recommended that "thought be given to a plan whereby swimmers can be charged only enough to cover the cost of operation at Shields' lake." And he added, "Until such a plan is established we need not hope to have additional pools constructed, thereby increasing the annual cost for this phase of recreation and neglecting other fields."

Unexpectedly and somewhat to its author's chagrin this recommendation attracted considerable attention. The citizens of Richmond did not hesitate to make of this suggestion a controversial matter. Consequently it seems pertinent to review the need for additional swimming pools, the cost of operating Shields' lake, and finally the wisdom of this recommendation that a small fee be charged to cover the operation of this lake.

During the past three years it is estimated that an average of at least 200,000 persons made use of Shields' lake in each summer season. If this total be correct then approximately 2,225 individuals made use of this lake each day. On oppressively hot days the number who fled to this haven was doubled.

Lake Overcrowded.

Unfortunately, although this lake is larger than the typical municipal swimming pool, it is not able to comfortably accommodate the large numbers who now make use of it. It loses all attractions for many who would otherwise use it because of the fact that it is usually overcrowded. And more important, in order that it may be kept sanitary it is necessary at times to treat the water with so much chlorine that swimming in this lake becomes to some extent distasteful.

To relieev this congestion from time to time recommendations have been made that the Richmond city council should establish one or more swimming pools in other sections of the city. Several of these recommendations have gained the ear of the council itself and been considered by this body.

For instance, on Dec. 3, 1928, a resolution was introduced in the common council directing the committee on public buildings, properties and utilities to consider the advisability of acquiring land north of the National Cemetery road between Glenwood road and Anderson street and constructing a swimming pool on this site. In response to this resolution the committee on public buildings, properties and utilities recommended the construction of a swimming pool on another site. This recommendation was killed by the finance committee.

A second resolution to acquire a site in the same section of the city was introduced in September, 1930. The site which this resolution recommends has been approved by the department of public works and by the council committee on public buildings, properties and utilities. On two occasions, however, it has been tabled by the finance committee and a good guess would be that this paper will spend the balance of its life on the table of the finance committee.

Aid Church Hill.

Each of these resolutions has as its especial objective the provision of swimming facilities for the citizens of Church Hill. For the people of this section of the city Shield's lake is of relatively little value. Likewise Shield's lake, the only swimming pool provided by the city, is more or less inaccessible to the boys and girls living in South Richmond, to those living in Highland Park and to those living in Barton Heights. To reach this swimming pool children living in any one of these four sections must travel, on the average, between three and four miles.

A census taken in May 1930, disclosed that of the total number of children from 7 to 19 years of age in Richmond, 42,481, only one out of every three children, lived within the public school district. Roughly, this district, which extends from the Brook turnpike to the James river and from Belvidere street to the western city boundary, includes all the territory that is adequately served by Shield's lake. Unfortunately this section includes only 14,577 of the 42,000 school children living in this city. The proportion of school children that are located too far distant to make use of this pool is approximately duplicated by the number of adults who likewise are denied this privilege.

The number who can make use of Shield's lake is even further reduced when the 3,520 Negro school children who live in this Third School district are subtracted from the total number of children in this district. In the entire city there are a total of 13,842 Negro children. For these children there are no public swimming facilities of any sort.

On two occasions efforts have been made to provide a swimming pool for Negroes. One proposal to create a park which would include a swimming pool in the hollow where the Happyland Recreation Center now stands was defeated by the inability of the Negroes to agree among themselves as to whether this was the site they desired. A second proposal was made by the Negro citizens themselves in the summer of 1930 when they petitioned the city to allow them to use the old reservoir at Harrison street and Lakeview avenue as a swimming pool during the summer months. This request was denied by the city council.

Costs $5,000 Annually.

At present the total annual expenditure for this form of public recreation in Richmond is not more than $5,000 if the cost of repairs and equipment attributable to each year be included. This amount includes the salaries of one superintendent, four life guards, and three bathhouse attendants as well as expenses. And this represents all that the city believes it can afford to devote to the support of swimming pools.

Back of the manifest demand of the citizens of Richmond for additional swimming pools, there is an urgent need. Good measures of sanitation require that the overcrowding at Shields' lake should be relieved. A spirit of fairness insists that the children living on Church Hill, in South Richmond, Highland Park and Barton Heights be provided with an opportunity to enjoy this form of recreation. This same spirit of fairness demands that the Negroes of Richmond be given a public swiming pool for their use.

Since the present administration of the municipal government does not believe Richmond can afford to spend any larger portion of its revenue for swimming pools, then it follows that some other plan must be devised to finance the construction and operation of these pools.

If as small a fee as 5 cents were to be charged at Shield's lake it would provide approximately $10,000, or enough to pay for the cost of operating this lake and another swimming pool as well.

It is wholly undesirable that any charge at all should be made for the use of this public pool. It is now supported by the public's tax dollar. But, if this is the only course by which Richmond may finance the construction and operation of swimming pools in other sections of the city and for the Negroes of this city then let a small fee be charged until the city can assume its proper function and support public swimming pools for all the children and citizens of this city.